

Message Text

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FOR AMBASSADOR ELLIOT RICHARDSON

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS VE
SUBJECT: FONMIN CONSALVI DISCUSSES LOS CONFERENCE

1. IN A LENGTHY INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN EL NACIONAL OF
APRIL 18, FONMIN CONSALVI DISCUSSED THE ISSUES CURRENTLY
CONFRONTING THE LOS CONFERENCE IN GENEVA. HE NOTED THE
SITUATION IS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT BECAUSE THERE ARE
HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS THAT A FINAL DECISION ON EXPLOITATION
OF SEABED MINERALS WILL EMERGE FROM THE CURRENT LOS CONFERENCE.
THIS, HE SAID, IS THE MOST SENSITIVE ISSUE
OF THE CONFERENCE, AND, FOR THE THIRD WORLD IN PARTICULAR,
AN ISSUE WHICH HAS SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS ESPECIALLY FOR
THOSE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CURRENTLY DEPENDENT ON EXPORT
OF THOSE MINERALS.

2. CONSALVI WENT ON TO SAY THAT SOME INDUSTRIALIZED
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COUNTRIES ARE CONCERNED OVER THE CONTROLLING AUTHORITY,
ASPIRING TO SEE A LIMITED AUTHORITY AND WISHING TO REPEAT
CERTAIN PRIVILEGES WHICH CHARACTERIZED PREVIOUS EXPLOITA-
TION OF NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES FROM THE EARTH. THIS,
HOWEVER, SAID CONSALVI, IS NOT POSSIBLE. SOME DEVELOPED
COUTRNIES ALSO PERCEIVE THE APPROVAL OF A LAW OF THE SEA
TREATY AS PREJUDICIAL TO THEIR INTERESTS. HE POINTED OUT,

HOWEVER, THAT WHAT IS AT ISSUE IS NOT NATIONAL INTERESTS
BUT RATHER THE INTERESTS OF TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS.

3. CONSALVI SAID THE LOS DISCUSSIONS ARE NOW AT A CRITICAL
STAGE AND BECAUSE OF THIS IT IS NECESSARY TO "KEEP A COOL
HEAD." SO AS NOT TO GIVE ANY JUSTIFICATION TO THOSE WHO WISH
TO SEE THE CONFERENCE FAIL. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED IT WOULD
BE DANGEROUS AND ANARCHICAL FOR ALL COUNTRIES IF ONE WERE
TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO DISTURB THE SUCCESS OF THE CON-
FERENCE OR GIVE UNILATERAL CONCESSIONS FOR EXPLOITATION OF
MARINE RESOURCES. FOR THIS REASON, HE SAID VENEZUELA AND
OTHER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES ARE MAKING GREAT EFFORTS TO
CONCILIATE THE INTERESTS OF ALL PARTIES.

4. CONCLUDING, CONSALVI SAID THAT THE INABILITY TO REACH
AN AGREEMENT IN A BRIEF PERIOD DOES NOT MEAN THE CONFERENCE
HAS BEEN A FAILURE.
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